

Administrative Record
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

April 15, 1988

Mr. Morey D. Grove
Somers Water & Sewer District
P. O. Box 262
Somers, MT 59932

Re: Health Advisory Update, Somers Water District

Dear Morey:

Stephanie Wallace stopped by this week to bring me up to date concerning the testing of samples taken following the December water line break at the tie plant. She also provided me with the following summary:

Samples of the Somers municipal water supply were taken on December 29, 1987, by the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Retec (Burlington Northern consultants) following a water line break at the tie treating plant. The results of analysis of these samples show that bacteriological and metals contamination do not exist. However, discrepancies were found in the results of laboratory analysis for creosote contamination. Samples from all of the homes tested indicated that the water was chemically safe to drink, however, two duplicate samples taken as a check on the sampling and analysis procedures showed discrepant results. Although the nature of the sample results indicates that laboratory error was the cause, EPA and Retec will resample the municipal water supply to verify that the Somers water is chemically safe for potable use. In the meantime, residents of homes receiving bottled water should continue to use this water for drinking and cooking until further notice. The water from the public system may, however, be safely used for food washing, dishwashing and bathing unless it exhibits a creosote odor or a sheen. If this occurs, the Water District should be notified immediately.